

Anne Arundel - 802
Freedmen's Bureau School(Mill Swamp) (Site)
Mill Swamp Rd.
West River,MD 20881

1865

South of the South River Bridge, in southern Anne Arundel County, is Mill Swamp Rd. connecting Rt.2 with Muddy Creek Road. Almost at the lowest point in this road, the Freedmen's Bureau established the first colored school in the County in 1865. This school was supported by federal funds and closed in 1870 when President Andrew Johnson vetoed the bill that would have continued and increased the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau. The structure that housed the first school has long disappeared, but the old Ralph Bunche School (now a Community & Day Care Center) is close to the site.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Freedmen's Bureau School (Mill Swamp) - Site

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Mill Swamp Rd.

CITY, TOWN West River (Owensville) VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fourth

STATE Maryland

COUNTY Anne Arundel

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Anne Arundel Co. Bd. of Education

Telephone #: 224-0113

STREET & NUMBER 2644 Riva Rd.

CITY, TOWN Annapolis VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code MD, 21404

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Anne Arundel Co. Court House

Liber #: NHG 11

Folio #: 340

STREET & NUMBER Church Circle

CITY, TOWN Annapolis

STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☒ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVEDDATE 1865

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There is noway of knowing exactly where this structure was located . It stood somewhere on the property now used as a day care center (old Ralph Buunche Shool) on the north side of Mill Swamp Rd., 1/2 mile from its junction with Rt. 2.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1865 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

South of the South River Bridge, in southern Anne Arundel County, is Mill Swamp Rd., connecting Rt. 2 with Muddy Creek Road. Almost at the lowest point in this road, the Freedmen's Bureau established the first colored school in the County in 1865. This school was supported by federal funds and closed in 1870 when President Andrew Johnson vetoed the bill that would have continued and increased the powers of the Freedmen's Bureau. The structure that housed the first school has long disappeared, but the old Ralph Bunche School (now a community & Day Care Center) is close to the site.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____

COUNTY _____

STATE _____

COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor
Maryland Commission on Afro-American
History & Culture

ORGANIZATION

DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

2692893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



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SOUTH RIVER